

Patent Application of
Timothy J. Keys
for
MOTORCYCLE PROTECTIVE COVER

CROSS-REFERENCES TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

Not Applicable.

STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT

Not Applicable.

MICROFICHE APPENDIX

Not Applicable

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention.

This invention relates to the field of motorcycles. More specifically, the invention comprises a removable cover for protecting the forward surfaces of a motorcycle.

2. Description of the Related Art.

FIG. 1 shows a motorcycle 10. There are many types currently in use. The one shown is a high-performance liquid-cooled type. An aerodynamic fairing encloses its forward portion. This is denoted in the view as upper cowling 26 and lower cowling 24. The upper and lower cowling may be made in multiple pieces or as one integral unit. The forward portion of upper cowling 26 opens into two air intakes 14. Headlight 12 (which may contain two or more bulbs) is located just above these.

A pair of turn signals 20 are located on the upper cowling, with one signal for each side. Likewise, a pair of mirrors 30 extend outward from the upper cowling. These mirrors are connected to the motorcycle by stalks 32. Windscreen 28 smoothly blends into the upper cowling.

Lower cowling 24 extends downward to the motorcycle's lower extreme. Radiator opening 22 is provided to allow air to flow into and through the radiator, which is located in the forward portion of lower cowling 24. The front wheel is immediately forward of the radiator opening. It is connected to the chassis by a pair of struts 16. Fender 18 is mounted over the front wheel to reduce spray.

Those skilled in the art will know that motorcycles such as the one shown in FIG. 1 are driven at high speed. When traveling down the highway they often experience bug strikes. Such strikes can

be harmful to the finish on the upper and lower cowling, which often feature painted and highly polished surfaces. Thus, it is desirable to provide a protective covering for these surfaces.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE PRESENT INVENTION

The present invention comprises a flexible protective cover which attaches over the forward surfaces of a motorcycle. A motorcycle typically includes an upper cowling and a lower cowling. The upper cowling typically contains an air intake, a headlight, two turn signals, and two rear view mirrors. The lower cowling typically contains a radiator opening bounded by two side walls and a top wall.

The protective cover includes a central portion and two attached side flaps. The central portion fits over the forward surfaces of the upper cowling. The two side flaps fit over the sides of the lower cowling. The cover's upper portion is attached by slipping adjustable tabs around the stalks of the rear view mirrors. The lower portion is attached around the radiator opening. The trailing edges of the two side flaps may also be attached to the lower cowling.

The invention optionally includes an integrated fender cover which slips over the motorcycle's front fender and locks around the two struts supporting the front wheel. With this device installed, all the forward-facing painted surfaces are protected from bug strikes and the like.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a perspective view, showing a prior art motorcycle.

FIG. 2 is an isometric view, showing the present invention.

FIG. 3 is a detail view, showing the stalk slot.

FIG. 4 is an isometric view, showing the inner surface of the present invention.

FIG. 5 is an isometric view, showing the installation of the present invention.

FIG. 6 is an isometric view, showing the location of mounting features on the motorcycle.

FIG. 7 is an isometric view, showing the installation of the present invention.

FIG. 8 is an isometric view, showing the installation of the present invention.

FIG. 9 is an isometric view, showing the installation of the present invention.

FIG. 10 is an isometric view, showing a fender cover.

FIG. 11 is a section view, showing features of the fender cover.

FIG. 12 is an isometric view, showing the installation of the fender cover.

FIG. 13 is an isometric view, showing the installation of the fender cover.

FIG. 14 is a perspective view, showing the motorcycle with the invention installed.

REFERENCE NUMERALS IN THE DRAWINGS

10	motorcycle	12	headlight
14	air intake	16	strut
18	fender	20	turn signal
22	radiator opening	24	lower cowling
26	upper cowling	28	windscreen
30	mirror	32	stalk
34	cowling cover	36	headlight opening
38	air intake opening	40	turn signal opening

42	side flap	44	upper tab
46	stalk slot	48	hook tab
50	loop tab	52	outer surface
54	inner surface	56	loop block
58	hook block	60	top wall
62	side wall	64	lower edge
66	cowling side	68	upper corner
70	fender cover	72	strut slot
74	flap	76	hook tab
78	loop tab	80	tube section
82	main panel	84	central portion

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

FIG. 2 shows the present invention laid out in a flattened state. Cowling cover 34 consists primarily of central portion 84 and two attached side flaps 42. The view shows the outward facing side of the device, denoted as outer surface 52. Two turn signal openings 40 are provided near where central portion 84 joins the two side flaps 42.

Central portion 84 also includes a pair of air intakes 38 and headlight opening 36. Two stalk slots 46 are located near the upper corners of central portion 38. Each stalk slot 46 is bounded by an upper tab 44. FIG. 3 shows a stalk slot 46 in more detail. Loop tab 50 and hook tab 48 are located near the open mouth of stalk slot 46. These hook and loop fasteners (commonly known as

VELCRO) can selectively close the open mouth of stalk slot 46. Those skilled in the art will also know that they provide considerable adjustment, the purpose of which will be explained subsequently.

FIG. 4 shows cowling cover 34 flipped over to reveal inner surface 54 (The surface which customarily faces the motorcycle). The central portion and the two side flaps are bounded on their lower extremes by a continuous lower edge 64. A first loop block 56 is located near the right-hand extreme of lower edge 64 and a second loop block 56 is located near the left-hand extreme. Each loop block is a section of loop-type fastener material which is affixed to the cowling cover, such as by sewing, gluing, or other conventional means.

A third loop block 56 is located near the lower edge of the central portion. Two more loop blocks 56 are located in the two upper corners 68 of the two side panels. These loop blocks are positioned to mate with hook blocks affixed to the motorcycle. Of course, those skilled in the art will know that the hook and loop blocks can be reversed (the hook blocks on the cowling cover and the loop blocks on the motorcycle). It is also possible to substitute many other types of fasteners such as snaps.

FIG. 5 shows the first step in the installation of the cowling cover. Cowling cover 34 is draped over the upper cowling as shown. The two stalk slots 46 are opened and the two upper arms 44 are passed over the two stalks 32. The cowling cover is allowed to rest in this position while the next step is performed.

FIG. 6 shows a detailed view of the area surrounding radiator opening 22. The front wheel, struts, and fender have been removed in this view to aid visualization. The reader will observe that radiator opening 22 is bounded by two side walls 62 and a top wall 60. A hook block 58 is attached to top wall 60 as shown. A hook block 58 is likewise attached to each side wall 62. The blocks can

be attached using many methods, but high-strength double-sided tape is particularly effective. In fact, such blocks often come already attached to such tape. Another hook block **58** is affixed to cowling side **66** (A corresponding block is found on the opposite side).

FIG. 7 shows the next step in the installation process. With the cowling cover draped over the upper cowling, lower edge **64** of central portion **84** is tucked into the radiator opening. The centrally located loop block **56** is then pressed against the hook block **58** located on top wall **60**. This holds the lower extreme of the central portion in place.

Turning now to FIG. 8, the user pulls the cowling cover taut, then locks each stalk slot over each stalk **32** by securing loop tab **50** to hook tab **48** (The adjustable nature of the link between the hook and loop tabs allow the cowling cover to be properly tightened).

FIG. 9 shows the next step. The user tucks lower edge **64** of the two side flaps into radiator opening **22** and secures them in position by pressing the two loop blocks **56** on the side flaps against the two hook blocks **58** on side walls **62**. Finally, the user can secure the two upper corners **68** by pressing the two loop blocks **56** on the two upper corners **68** against the two hook blocks **58** on the two cowling sides **66**.

Using this approach, the leading surfaces of the upper and lower cowling are well protected. The cowling cover can even incorporate mesh panels covering some or all of headlight opening **36**, air intake opening **38**, or turn signal opening **40**.

However, returning briefly to FIG. 1, the reader will observe that the finished surfaces on fender **18** are not protected by the cowling cover. An additional element is therefore desirable to protect the fender.

FIG. 10 shows fender cover 70. Main panel 82 opens into a pair of strut slots 72 toward the rear. These are selectively closed by cooperating hook tabs 76 and loop tabs 78. A pair of flaps 74 bound the lower portions of the two strut slots 72. Tube section 80 extends around most of the perimeter of main panel 82.

FIG. 11 shows a section view through the fender cover in its installed state. Tube section 80 is attached to main panel 82. It is not closed however. It contains a slit along its entire length. The user can pry open this slit and slide it over the exposed edge of fender 18. The tube section, which is made of a pliable material such as rubber, naturally tends to close. It thereby grips the edge of the fender and secures the device in position.

In FIG. 12, the user has slipped the two strut slots 72 around the two struts 16. In FIG. 13, the user has closed the two strut slots by locking the hook and loop tabs together. The small portions of tube section 80 lying near the rear of the cover are then slipped over the edge of the fender guard and the installation is complete.

FIG. 14 shows the complete invention installed, with the cowling cover and the fender cover protecting the forward surfaces of the motorcycle.

Although the preceding description contains significant detail, it should not be viewed as limiting the invention but rather as providing examples of the preferred embodiments. Accordingly, the scope of the invention should be fixed by the following claims rather than by any examples given.